

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF NATO-SPONSORED
SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1974

SUMMARY: U.S. ORGANIZER OF NATO-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN ATHENS SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1974, HAS INFORMED SECRETARIAT
THAT HE RECEIVING MANY CANCELLATIONS FROM EXPECTED MEETING PARTICIPAN
TS.

HE SOUGHT SECRETARIAT ADVICE ON POSSIBLEPOSTPONEMENT OR SHIFT
OF MEETING TO NATO HEADQUARTERS BRUSSELS. QUERIED BY SECRETARIAT,
GREEK NATO DEL RESISTED IDEA OF RELOCATING MEETING. UNDER CIRCUMSTAN
CES,
SECRETARIAT LIKELY SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT
COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. NATO SCIENCE DIV. HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY PROF. IRWIN SARASON,
PROF. OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (SEATTLE),
ORGANIZER OF CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 3-6,
1974, IN ATHENS ON "EMPIRICAL APPROACHES TO STRESS AND ANXIETY"
UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S SPECIAL PROGRAM
PANEL ON JYMAN FACTORS. SARASON INFORMED NATO SECRETARIAT THAT
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MANY OF THE 130 EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS WORLD-WIDE HAVE EXPRESSED
CONCERN TO HIM RECENTLY ABOUT SITUATION IN AREA AND SEVERAL HAVE
CANCELLED PLANS TO ATTEND, WITH MORE LIKELY TO DO SO. SARASON
SOUGHT SECRETARIAT'S GUIDANCE ON ADVISABILITY OF GOING AHEAD

WITH MEETING IN ATHENS AS PLANNED OR POSTPONEMENT OR POSSIBLY ARRANGING ALTERNATIVE CONFERENCE SITE IN BRUSSELS USING NATO HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES (WHICH SECRETARIAT INFORMED US COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IF AGREEABLE TO ALL CONCERNED). ACCORDING SARASON, POSTPONEMENT AT THIS POINT WOULD DELAY MEETING UP TO ONE YEAR, AFTER 1 AND 1/2 YEAR PREPARATION ALREADY AND WITH MANY MAJOR PAPERS NOW IN HAND. SARASON BELIEVED THAT MOST EXPECTED ATTENDEES WOULD STILL COME IF VENUE COULD BE SHIFTED ELSEWHERE.

2. AFTER HEARING FROM SARASON, SECRETARIAT CONSULTED ON OUTLOOK FOR MEETING WITH, GREEK NATO DEL. GREEK DEL HAS CHECKED WITH ATHENS AND HAS JUST ASSURED SECRETARIAT THAT MEETING FACILITIES AND HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS (BOTH AT HOTEL APERGI IN KIFISSIA AREA OF ATHENS) ARE IN ORDER AND THAT THE GREEK AUTHORITIES SEE NO DIFFICULTIES IN PROCEEDING WITH MEETING IN ATHENS AS PLANNED. ON POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTING MEETING TO NATO HEADQUARTERS, GREEK DEL ADDED THAT GREECE'S CONTINUED POLITICAL MEMBERSHIP IN NATO MAKES IT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE TO HOLD SUCH A MEETING IN GREECE AND THAT THEY SEE NO REASON FOR A CHANGE.

3. IN SECRETARIAT VIEW, THIS POSITION TAKEN BY GREEKS RULES OUT CONSIDERATION OF SHIFTING NATO-SPONSORED (AND FUNDED) MEETING FROM ATHENS, LEAST OF ALL TO NATO HEADQUARTERS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SECRETARIAT PLANS NOW TO SUGGEST TO PROF. SARASON (BY TELEPHONE) THAT HE MIGHT WISH CONSIDER POSTPONEMENT AS MOST PRUDENT COURSE AT THIS TIME.

4. MISSION WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON ABOVE. UNDERSTAND PROF. SARASON ALREADY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT AND WITH SENATOR MAGNUSON'S OFFICE ON SUBJECT BEFORE CONTACTING SECRETARIAT. MCCAULIFFE

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